

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DOINGS IN THE SPORT WORLD

BIG LEAGUE HEADS ADOPT PROGRAM

Heydler and Johnson Meet in New York and Decide on Schedule of 140 Games.

New York, Dec. 24.—The National and American Leagues will play a schedule of 140 games next season, opening on April 23 and closing on October 1 as will be possible. The length of the season and the opening date were among several matters settled here on Sunday by John Heydler and Ban Johnson, presidents of the two major leagues.

At the recent American League meeting in Chicago a tentative opening date of May 1 was suggested. This, however, was a little later than most of the National League clubs cared to start. Besides, Johnson's original idea for a shorter season was to reduce the number of double headers. It had been realized for some time that the double header had become a real evil in the sport.

By starting on April 23 it will be possible to leave a number of open dates in the schedule which might be utilized to play off postponed games. An April 23 opening will permit the old holiday arrangement to continue next season. It is preferable to have the Eastern and Western clubs play teams of their own sections on the three big holidays—Decoration Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Will Meet Minor Leagues. At their conference Heydler and Johnson also decided to invite a committee from the minor leagues to meet with them on Sunday.

The Heydler-Johnson confabulation was the first official conference held by the presidents of the two major leagues in nearly a year. Relations between Johnson and former President Tener of the National League were not very cordial for some time before the latter resigned from his office.

The meeting was very harmonious, according to Heydler, and many things for the future welfare of the game were up for discussion. Unquestionably the future of the National Commission was one of the leading matters taken up, and it is said it was adjourned. The final settlement of this question was left for the big league conference.

While it was known that Johnson was in New York late last week it was believed he was here in his effort to swing the deal by which former Governor Walsh and other prominent Bostonians will buy the Red Sox. This may have been Johnson's real mission in the East, and he selected it as a good time to talk important baseball matters over with the new head of the National League. Johnson yesterday returned to Chicago.

The schedule committee of the National League, consisting of Heydler and Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pittsburgh club, will meet with Johnson in French Lick, Ind., on Jan. 1 to draft the schedule.

CUBS AND WHITE SOX TO TRAIN

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Officials of both the Chicago National and American league clubs began today to make definite arrangements for starting the spring training trip following the announcement yesterday that the major league season would open on April 23. The Chicago Nationals decided some time ago to do their conditioning in southern California, and President C. A. Comiskey of the White Sox, announced today that his team would train in Texas, though he did not name the city.

LIFT RESTRICTION ON ENEMY ALIENS

Washington, Dec. 24.—German aliens will be permitted to move about at will, excepting as to entrance and departure from the United States, beginning tomorrow under an order by Attorney General Gregory published today. The order, issued on cable instructions from President Wilson, will affect about 500,000 German men and women.

Removal of regulations as to freedom of movement, the attorney general's office announced, does not affect the power of internment nor the status of dangerous German enemy aliens now interned. The order will allow German enemy aliens to visit the three prohibited areas, namely, the District of Columbia, the Panama Canal Zone, and all water fronts.

Secretary Baker urged the House Military committee to bestow permanent rank of general on John J. Pershing and also make permanent the rank of lieutenant general on Hunter, Liggett and Robert L. Bulfinch.

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SPORT CHATTER

LATE BASEBALL OPENING WILL HELP THE GAME

Now that John Heydler and Ban Johnson have decided that the major league season will open on April 23, no amount of debating the question would do any good. The late opening means that many clubs will not go South for their training and that the leagues will repeat an experiment that proved a dismal failure in the long ago. But the idea of opening so late, in the main, is a good one. Early April openings, with their following days of cold and uncertain weather, have done major-league box offices little good. Every now and then we get an April that is warm and salubrious, but the average April is a mean jade.

For many years the club owners had been beseeched to do away with the early openings, and now that they have crossed the Rubicon they will get criticism nevertheless. The decision to close on or about October 1 is even better than the one to open late. For one thing, the world's series in nipping weather, at warm prices, is not conducive to general satisfaction. The National League was for the 140 game schedule, with the single exception of New York. In the American League the 154 game schedule, as of yore, was urged by Boston and Chicago.

THE OLD COLLEGE ROWING DREAM IS REVIVED

Again the dream of a "League of Nations" waits itself across the slowly waking intercollegiate rowing world. We are told once more that the old scheme whereby the Poughkeepsie and New London rowing companies were to unite into one amicable, hurrying aggregation for a week or so of competition at Princeton or Philadelphia is to become a reality in the spring of 1919. We are informed that the American Rowing Association is to hold a meeting to further that scheme in the near future, and that the outlook is indeed rosy. The assumption is that the war has made some of the colleges realize the folly of preposterous rowing and other athletic establishments, and that there is to be a unified movement to make everything simple and less costly without destroying the old rivalry and health of competition. The great desideratum is a regatta modeled after the Henley in England.

It will be remembered that last winter the American Rowing Association held a meeting and scheduled a big patriotic regatta at Annapolis. This regatta was to be the embodiment of all the old stated ideas, dreams and principles. It was to be the first step in breaking up the Hudson and Thames combinations and bringing everybody together. Perhaps it was a rather unpropitious time for such a regatta, but at any rate when the Annapolis races were held they were not what the American Association had been looking forward to. For several weeks before the regatta there was great danger of its being cancelled. When it finally was held only Columbia, Pennsylvania and the Navy were on the scene. The junior race had to be cancelled.

We would like to see one of those weeks of rowing become a reality, but we have our doubts. Harvard and Yale are linked together, as they should be, by too strong a tie to be broken because of any desire to get together with less natural rivals. The regatta at New London is not going to be done away with for any week of rowing at Princeton or anywhere else. And we will hazard the prediction that the Intercollegiate Rowing Association will go back to Poughkeepsie. The American Rowing Association will schedule a regatta, possibly for the Child's Cup, but it is not likely to be the climatic event of the rowing season. And there will be a big rowing season, reports to the effect that Cornell will be out, notwithstanding. We look for a big announcement from Cornell in the near future.

BRITISH PRESS COMMENT

Comment in the British sporting press previous to the international army and navy boxing tournament in London, which came to hand in papers received yesterday, indicated that our English cousins had reconciled themselves to defeat. The boxing critics of London were fearful lest we press all our professional stars into the service and just gobble up the King's trophy. In view of that contingency they saw only black ahead. Here is a sample of the prevailing pre-tournament opinion, as printed in London Daily Mail:

"A competition has been arranged for teams representing the allied countries at the various weights. It is a sporting idea, which should be carried out in a sportsmanlike fashion. With that end in view, however, it should be confined to those who have actually been in the fighting line. Otherwise, it will not serve the cause of boxing as a national game in the best sense of the term. We hear of an American team of all the professional talents which is on its way to represent the United States in this affair. Not one of them has seen any fighting; they have been attached to the United States Army, as more or less hard worked instructors in physical training. If they take part in the competition, these heroes of a hundred glove fights will probably do as well as the American superathletes did at the Olympic games at Stockholm. But—would it be a sporting venture? All American officers, who know the fighting men at the front, ours and their own, are emphatically of opinion it would not be anything of the kind. It does not, of course, matter at all which of the allied nations win the King's prize. But if it is to be a sporting event, and those who have actually served in the war, the tournament will help to further the revival of the hard and invigorating sport which is one of the chivalrous diversions that distinguished men from Germans and other anthropoid creatures."

Aside from the ever recurring sneer about American "superathletes" the London seread, in the light of what really happened in the tournament, is distasteful to us and in many ways provocative of prolonged chachinaton. In the first place the critics in London could not expect us, after only a year of war, to have every one of our soldiers on the firing line and every one of our sailors chasing the Hun. The British military and naval authorities invited the American army and bureau of navigation to send a service team to London, and the British should have been ready to accept our designations without any fear of being overwhelmed by a lot of tried professionals and instructors who practically were "ringers."

At any rate, here is how it worked out: England sent into the ring, to win titles, Sergeant Instructor With, a world's champion, Sergeant Instructor Miller, Instructor Billy Wells, a British champion, and many another instructor. Sergeant Johnny Basham, middleweight champion of England, had been fighting in London through the war, and we know not that he ever saw the front. America got men like O'Dowd, McGorty and Lynch out of the trenches and Pal Moore out of active sea service. Had the United States sent instructors attached to the army it would have picked that tournament as clean as a whistle. With Kilbane, Leonard, Lewis and Mike Gibbons among them they would have staged one of the grandest little clean-ups seen in many a day.

It is almost certain that the two Boston clubs will have new owners before the 1919 season begins. The Red Sox are on the market, and several syndicates of prominent business men have already made offers to Harry Frazee for his franchise and players. Ban Johnson was in Boston on Sunday and conferred with a wealthy Bostonian who is seeking the ownership of the world's champions. The men and backers behind the Boston Braves have about decided to retire from baseball, and the club may eventually revert back to Jim Gaffney. It is said, however, that Gaffney has already made an offer for the Red Sox, and if he obtains the club, the world's champions will play at the Braves Field.

Christmas Dinners Given By the Elks

Following a custom of many years Bridgeport lodge of Elks will this evening distribute between 600 and 700 baskets, each containing all the necessities for a Christmas dinner, among the poor people of the city. Names of those in need have been secured from the Charities department of the city, Visiting Nurse association, Police department, and from the churches, and the baskets will be delivered by members of the lodge. Each basket will contain chicken or turkey, or roast, tomatoes, turnips, potatoes, celery, butter, coffee, sugar, oranges, candy, and bread sufficient for a considerable family.

COKE RULING IS REVOKED

Washington, Dec. 24.—Revocation of the ruling prohibiting the sale or delivery of coke for export by ocean transportation except upon the prior issuance of a permit by the United States Fuel Administration was announced today by the Fuel Administration.

Announcement of the change in procedure was made in an official order amending a previous one relative to the "price of coke for export by ocean transportation."

Police headquarters, New York, will be closed at 5 p. m. hereafter to prevent a second visit of thieves who stole \$300 worth of electric fixtures from the basement a short time ago.

AMBASSADOR SHARP SAILS FOR HOME

Paris, Monday, Dec. 23.—William G. Sharp, American Ambassador to France, called upon President Wilson this evening to bid good-bye, as he has been unexpectedly called to America by the severe illness of a brother. He leaves tonight, going to Brest, where he will sail for New York on transport. Robert Woods Bliss, counselor of the embassy, will be charge d'affaires during his absence.

Gold holdings of the Bank of Germany as of Dec. 14 were estimated at 2,304,477 marks.

LARRY WILLIAMS TO BE BUSY MAN FOR NEXT MONTH

Larry Williams, the local blonde light heavyweight, will certainly be a busy man for the next month or two.

Sam Driver, his manager, has matched him to meet Clay Turner, the Indian chief, in an eight round bout before the Armory A. A. in Jersey City on Dec. 30. Then on New Year's afternoon he goes against Jim Coffey, the Dublin Giant, in a six-round go before the National A. A. of Philadelphia.

He is also slated to meet the winner of the Kid Norfolk-Clay Turner match which is to be staged in Boston Jan. 8.

Louis Bogash, the other boxer who Driver has under his wing, is training daily and will leave tomorrow night late for his bout with Terry Brooks which is to take place in Lowell.

He was scheduled to meet Johnnie Drummond on New Year's night but the death of Drummond's mother will necessitate the securing of a substitute to take his place.

Bridge Work Delays Harbor Improvement

Harbor improvements in the Pequannock river must wait for the completion of the new bridge in East Washington avenue, as they have been waiting for a number of years.

Dredging has been done in the river both north and south of the present bridge, but the depth of water required though the draw exceeds the depth of the piers of the present structure. Contract for a new bridge was awarded to E. DeVoie Tompkins in 1916, work to be commenced at the completion of the new Grand street bridge, which in turn was to have been completed Sept. 1, 1917.

Both contracts have been cancelled by the city on allegations that the work was delayed by the contractors. The Grand street bridge is now being built under the city, and is about one-half completed. No work has yet been done on the East Washington avenue bridge. Two suits in which damages of \$240,000 are claimed by Tompkins, Inc. for cancellation of the contracts have been tried before Judge F. D. Haines in the Superior Court, and arguments will be made before him Thursday. Decision is not expected for several weeks in these cases.

STEPNEY

There will be no meeting of the Red Cross auxiliary this week as the regular meeting would fall on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Peck have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Thomas in New Milford.

The Methodist Sunday school will hold a Christmas entertainment in the church parlors on Thursday evening of this week. There will be a Christmas tree for the children and cake and cocoa will be served.

William Mandeville of Danbury is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Tyrrell.

Mrs. Glover Blakeman and Miss Ethel Blakeman have recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lovejoy in Norwalk.

Lemuel Osborne spent Saturday as the guest of his son, C. E. Osborne in Bridgeport.

Closing exercises were held at the Birdseye Plain school on Friday afternoon. Recitations, songs and dialogues were given by the pupils of the school after which Santa Claus unloaded a tree full of gifts for the teacher and pupils of the school. About 35 parents and friends were present.

Miss Raymond of Greenfield Hill has accepted a position as clerk in H. Hawley & Co.'s store.

Mrs. Stanley Northrop has been ill for a few days past.

Mrs. Stanley Northrop was called to Stratford recently, where she attended the funeral of her sister, Mrs. Webb. Mrs. Webb was formerly Miss Bertha Mattegat of this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hawley were over Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Curtiss in Newtown.

Miss Marjorie Connors, who has been spending a few weeks here, has returned to Sherman.

Miss Emma Wells was an over Sunday guest of Miss Maud Lewis in Hattertown.

Nathan Hinman has been quite ill for a few days past.

Mrs. Harry Morgan is spending this week as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Oscar B. Plumb, in Nichols.

Miss Theresa Padherczak is spending a week's vacation in Ansonia.

ZONE ORDERS ON COAL SHIPPING

Washington, Dec. 24.—Two new zone modification orders, permitting the further shipment of bituminous coal from parts of West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania and into sections of Maryland, the District of Columbia and New England, were made public today by the Fuel Administration.

One order permits the all-rail shipment of bituminous coal on the Baltimore and Ohio, the Western Maryland and the Coal and Coke railroads in West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania to all points in New England.

The other order provides for the shipment of bituminous coal from all districts of Pennsylvania to Baltimore and vicinity and to the District of Columbia.

It was reported in Brussels that British intends to use the River Scheldt to send supplies to the British army of occupation in Germany.

Fresh and cured meat shipments from Chicago for the week was 88,430,000 pounds.

Moore Back; Turns Down \$10,000 Offer

Quite a number of Yankee pugilists reached New York yesterday and in the number was Pal Moore, the Memphis lad who received a decision over Jimmy Wilde recently. Moore was all swelled up over his conquest for he is one of the few that ever received a decision over the British marvel.

In talking about his bout Moore said he received an offer of \$10,000 and one-third share of the moving pictures to fight Wilde again by Promoter McDonald. Moore didn't give the offer much consideration as he wanted to get back to his native land. Also he knows Wilde is going to reach here shortly and there is no doubt of a return battle.

In talking of the recent tournament all the boxers agreed that fair play dominated. The best instance of this was in the Moore-Wilde event. Though the crowd disagreed with the ruling of the referee, Jim Driscoll, the second for Wilde, declared Moore was entitled to the honors. This delighted our boys, especially as they remembered Driscoll from the days he was over here and trimmed everybody in sight.

HOLIDAY RUSH AT POST OFFICE GREAT

Sufficient force to handle the extra rush of the Christmas mail is reported by Postmaster C. F. Greene, and he expects that every letter and parcel will be delivered either today or tomorrow. While Christmas day is classed as a holiday and only one delivery is usually made, it is a custom of the post office here to deliver everything received. There has been a large consignment of mail for overseas, and more than 2,000 sacks of outgoing mail were handled by the force yesterday. The parcels post business yesterday was the largest ever handled by the office, but will probably be exceeded by the rush of today. War Savings stamps seem to be popular as Christmas gifts judging from the large number sold in the last few days. Notwithstanding the extra amount of business there is little delay for the public in the post office.

GAMBLING CASE IS CONTINUED

The case of Sebastian Williams, alleged proprietor of the Union club, charged with keeping a gambling house, was continued until next Saturday morning by Judge Frank C. Wilder in the city court yesterday. He is held in bonds of \$30 for his appearance.

Eight frequenters of the place who were arrested when the police raided the place Saturday, while a crap game was in progress were held in bonds of \$25 each, when the case was continued. The proprietor and the frequenters are colored.

Watson's Weekly Letter

Holiday dullness with dragging tendencies in the general stock market have taken place in the last few days, and at the present writing there appears to be no reason to expect a change in the outlook for a continuance of this program. The professional element is in control of fluctuations to a large extent, and is employing the chaotic railroad situation with its attendant uncertainty as a reason for its bearish activities. Conservative operations are recommended, with important commitments held in abeyance until there is a clearer prospect and fewer restrictions on Wall Street with regard to money accommodations.

There has been complaint of the pessimistic state of Wall Street sentiment. The time has gone by for putting the responsibility on the Street for the creation of pessimism in the financial atmosphere of the country. New York reflects tendencies of the industrial life of the nation; it does not create them. The administration at Washington must understand that the nature of man still contains—as it always has—a certain amount of speculative venture; and this has to be considered. The growth of optimism should be encouraged—not that of pessimism—if we are to have good times, and if more Liberty Loans are to be floated.

There is quite a general disposition stockmarketwise to await the developments that will come after the turn of the year in the way of readjustments to the removal of fixed prices for the metal and other commodity fields. There will be a firmer foundation fixed when we return to the operation of the law of supply and demand in the "barometer of trade," the steel industry. When steel and copper "find themselves," we have no doubt that the market price of their shares will have largely discounted that event in advance, and any "wind up"—or down—will probably be the signal for the making of conservative commitments on the long side of leading securities in those departments.

Adding to the inclination on the part of the speculative-investment community to await developments, is the progress of the world's statement toward the Peace Congress, more definite advice concerning policies for-mulating being due for publication early in the new year. These are of such tremendous weight, involving the very fundamentals of trading in all fields of human endeavor, that it is small wonder that the leading financial, industrial and commercial interests are reluctant to make predictions as to the immediate future. Problems of reconstruction will be more easily solved when "concrete bases"—of Allied instead of German building—shall have been established.

The present view does not offer a picture as to the immediate future, but is closely associated with Wall Street activities. But they may change for the better before the 25th of December dawns upon us.

BRIDGEPORT BOYS REPORTED KILLED

Many From This City Included in List of Wounded in Last Days of War.

Three Bridgeporters serving their country in France are reported as having made the supreme sacrifice in the latest casualty lists published. They are Sergeant Stephen Mrasko of 5 Wordin court, who was killed in action October 15. His mother, Mrs. Mary Mrasko, has been notified.

Privates Stanislaw Bogdziewicz and Bronislaw Gznuk of 51 West avenue, are reported as having been killed in action October 26. They went into the army from the same house, although they are not relatives. Both were members of Co. I, 102d Infantry, and met death October 26. Private Bogdziewicz, also of the same address, is reported as having been seriously wounded October 28.

Quite a number of Bridgeport men are reported as wounded in the casualty lists published yesterday and today, mostly in the last severe battles of the war before the armistice was signed.

Lieut. David E. Heaphy of the American Tank Corps, engaged with British forces, was wounded October 9. He is a brother of Miss Susan Heaphy of 531 Warren street.

Private Howard Tomlin of 5 North Washington avenue, has informed his relatives in a letter that he is in a base hospital. The official announcement gives the degree of his wound as undetermined.

Private Joseph Buzzanca of the 325th Infantry, is reported slightly wounded. He was formerly with the Remington shops, and was drafted last March. Private Alexander Rich, also of the 325th Infantry, was

slightly wounded October 11, but has informed his sister, Mrs. Theodore Lang, of 180 West Liberty street, that he is rapidly recovering.

Corporal Anton Kalascinski, formerly of 698 East Main street, is reported in today's list as having been slightly wounded. No one at that address now knows Corporal Kalascinski.

Private Charles R. Johnson of 102d Infantry, transferred from another organization, is reported as seriously wounded, for the third time. He was previously wounded in April, and again in July, both times with shrapnel, but not seriously. He enlisted in July, 1917, and was transferred from the 18th Infantry to the 102d. His latest wound was October 25, but the extent of his injury is not known.

MID-WEEK SERVICE.

The annual business meeting of Park Street Congregational church will be held tomorrow evening in connection with the mid-week service. The election of officers and other business will take but a short time, and will be followed by a talk by William B. Boardman on Foster's "Challenge of the Present Crisis" and by Dr. Beard on King's "Fight for Character."

Following this service the Sunday School officers and teachers will hold their monthly meeting, when Miss Betts will report for the Sunday school convention.

The advisory board also will meet at this time those who wish to join the church at the communion on the first Sunday of the New Year.

PIROTECHNIC FLAGS.

Tokio, Dec. 24.—A Japanese fireworks factory recently received an order from the French government for a million of what are called "pyrotechnic flags" which, it is supposed here, are to be displayed in celebration of the restoration of peace. The French flag is to measure 66 by 33 inches, and will be sent up by a tube 6 inches in diameter.

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